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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
Is God in the motion or in the static?
Is God in the problem or in the re-
solve?

Is God in the activity or in the rest?
Is God in the noise or in the silence?
Wherever You are, Lord God, be in
our midst, both now and forever.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has exam-
ined the Journal of the last day's pro-
ceedings and announces to the House
her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Jour-
nal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman
from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON)
come forward and lead the House in the
Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led
the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the
United States of America, and to the Repub-
lic for which it stands, one nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will enter-
tain up to five requests for 1-minute
speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING CARBON SHREDDERS

(Mr. WELCH of Vermont asked and
was given permission to address the
House for 1 minute and to revise and
extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam
Speaker, I would like to take this op-
portunity to recognize the dedicated ef-
forts of Carbon Shredders, a grassroots

environmental group based in the Mad
River Valley of Vermont. Formed in
the fall of 2007 by three local environ-
mentalists, Carbon Shredders dedicates
its time to curbing local energy con-
sumption, helping Vermonters lower
their energy costs, and working to-
wards a clean energy future. The group
challenges participants to alter their
lifestyles in ways consistent with the
goal of reducing energy consumption.

In March, three Vermont towns
passed resolutions introduced by Car-
bon Shredders that call on residents
and businesses to reduce their carbon
footprint by 10 percent by 2010. In addi-
tion to the obvious environmental ad-
vantages, participating households will
save \$700 each year. Carbon Shredders'
membership has grown considerably in
Vermont since its founding, and this
group is doing tremendous work in
Vermont to lead us to a carbon-free
economy.

LET'S STAY AND GET THE JOB DONE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina
asked and was given permission to ad-
dress the House for 1 minute and to re-
vise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
Madam Speaker, today the House of
Representatives will adjourn for 5
weeks. It is troubling that the Demo-
cratic leadership sees no problem in
taking a 5-week vacation, having failed
to vote on legislation that will lower
gas prices and break our dependence on
foreign oil.

House Republicans have laid out a
plan of exploration, alternative energy
innovation, and conservation, a com-
prehensive strategy that pulls together
this Nation's immense natural re-
sources and our rapidly advancing
technology to reduce our dependence
on foreign oil and build a more pros-
perous country.

Let's have a vote on a comprehensive
energy package. Let's show American

families that their interests are impor-
tant enough for this Congress to stay
here and lower gas prices.

In conclusion, God bless our troops,
and we will never forget September the
11th. Godspeed for the future careers to
Second District staff members, Chirag
Shah and Kori Lorick.

COMMEMORATING THE MIN- NEAPOLIS I-35W BRIDGE COL- LAPSE

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given
permission to address the House for 1
minute and to revise and extend his re-
marks.)

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, last
year on August 1, 2007, at 6:05 p.m., the
Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis
collapsed into the Mississippi River.
Thirteen people lost their lives, injur-
ing nearly 100 people. The 13 victims
were mothers, fathers and children.

Last year on August 1, this day, we
as a Nation were united in our grief for
the victims. Today, the new I-35W
bridge stands almost complete over the
Mississippi River. I have had a chance
to tour it, and it is a good-looking
bridge. But we can never forget about
the victims and the lessons that we
have learned from the collapse.

We will be having a memorial today
in Minneapolis for the victims, and we
will be celebrating the fact that we
have come back and been a resilient
community after this collapse.

But I believe the tragic bridge col-
lapse serves as a national call to action
for our political leaders to focus on im-
proving our domestic infrastructure.
The time is now, Madam Speaker.

LET'S SECURE AMERICA

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and
was given permission to address the
House for 1 minute and to revise and
extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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